

Letters of Support



*Seattle, the economic center of gravity in the Pacific Northwest is a ferry ride away from the rural and wilderness landscapes of Puget Sound to Pacific.
Photo: Steve Durrant*



PS2P Co-Applicants

City of Port Angeles Lead Applicant
Clallam County
Jefferson County
Kitsap County
City of Bainbridge Island
Suquamish Tribe
Quileute Tribe
City of Poulsbo
City of Sequim
City of Port Townsend
Port of Port Townsend
City of Forks
Washington State Department of Transportation

Sponsors

Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative
Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation
North Kitsap Trails Association
Peninsula Trails Coalition

Elected Officials

US Senator Patty Murray
US Representative Derek Kilmer
Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz
State Senator Christine Rolfes
State Representative Steve Tharinger
Mayor Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, City of Bainbridge Island

Native American Tribes

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Regional Organizations

Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Clallam Transit

Economic Development

Port Angeles Chamber
Port Ludlow Associates
Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau
Sequim Valley Dungeness Chamber
Bainbridge Island Chamber
Kitsap EDA
EDC Team Jefferson
Jefferson Co Tourism Coordinating Council
Forks Chamber

Conservation Organizations

Kitsap County Parks
Bainbridge Park District
Bloedel Reserve
Great Peninsula Conservancy
Admiralty Audubon
Kitsap Audubon
Olympic Peninsula Audubon
Audubon Washington
Jefferson Land Trust
North Olympic Land Trust
Bainbridge Island Land Trust
Bainbridge Greenways
Forterra
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Washington Chapter American Society of
Landscape Architects
Seattle Parks Foundation

Equity and Accessibility

Peace Peloton
Sequim Wheelers
Count Me In - Quilcene
Ian's Ride - Making the Outdoors Accessible
Stacy Marshall - Owen's Playground

Healthcare, Housing & Education

Housing Resources Bainbridge
Friends of the Farms
Bainbridge Island School District
Olympic Medical Center
North Olympic Healthcare Network
Discovery Behavioral Healthcare
Jefferson Healthcare

Trails, Outdoors & Cycling Interests

Leafline Trails Coalition
Cascade Bicycle Club
Washington Bikes
Marsha Cutting
Kiel Reijnen (local Pro Cyclist)
Broken Spoke
PT Cyclery
Pedego Sequim
Sound Bikes & Kayaks
B. I. Cycle Shop
Bicycle Rides NW
West Sound Cycling Club
Night Owl Cycling
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
Back Alley Bicycle Repair
Good Weather Bicycles
REI
The Mountaineers
Washington Trails Association
Rails to Trails
Western Montana GART
Wayne County Ohio

The water's edge in La Push, WA at the far west end of the Great American Rail-Trail/Olympic Discovery Trail/Puget Sound to Pacific. Photo: Steve Durrant



Lead Applicant & Co-Applicants

City of Port Angeles Lead Applicant

Clallam County
Jefferson County
Kitsap County
Suquamish Tribe
Quileute Tribe
City of Bainbridge Island
City of Poulsbo
City of Sequim
City of Port Townsend
Port of Port Townsend
City of Forks
Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington State Ferry Wenatchee approaching Eagle Harbor and the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal. The ferry system provides regional commuters and visitors with access across Puget Sound. Photo: Don Willott





First mile of the Sound to Olympics Winslow Connector on Bainbridge Island helps commuters and visitors avoid riding on busy State Route 305. Photo: Don Willott





PORT ANGELES
WASHINGTON, U.S.

321 East Fifth Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing City of Port Angeles Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application as Lead Applicant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Port Angeles, the Lead-Applicant, please accept this letter of support for the **Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE** application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

As the Lead-Applicant the City of Port Angeles embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails have transformed our community by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We specially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

The City of Port Angeles has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Tribal nations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, the City of Port Angeles has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. For example, segments of the Olympic Discovery Pedestrian Trail along our downtown shoreline are now complete. Currently we are about to begin construction of Phase I of a two phase pedestrian and roadway project that will connect the Port Angeles Harbor to the Olympic National Park Headquarters along Race St., approximately 1.5 miles. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Dexter".

9F660451155E409...
Kate Dexter

Mayor



MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
Mike French, District 3

Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: commissioners@clallamcountywa.gov

RICH SILL, County Administrator

February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Clallam County Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Clallam County, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application, to address gaps in our regional "Olympic Discovery Trail" and "Olympics to Sound Trail." Existing and planned sections of these two regional trails connect many communities, scenic and recreational destinations across the northern Olympic Peninsula three county area. The existing and planned route also connects to and travel through Olympic National Park and the Olympic National Forest.

The RAISE grant will support needed planning and design efforts to address gaps in our two regional trails that will implement an identified regional vision for a complete trail corridor from the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal on Puget Sound in Kitsap County to the Quileute Tribal community of La Push on the Pacific Ocean in our County. Another key part of our vision is that completing our regional trail system serves to complete the westernmost section of the Great American Rail-Trail (GART), connecting our regional trails to a 3,700-mile cross-country trail (part of the US Bike Route System).

As a Co-Applicant Clallam County embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We specially value the health benefits derived from active transportation. They also provide significant and important economic benefits to our local communities and businesses from visitors to our regional trail system, including those participating in the many trail-related events held throughout the year.

Clallam County has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, Clallam County has been working on completing the regional Olympic Discovery Trail route that crosses our entire County to address the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community and expanded recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. For example, we

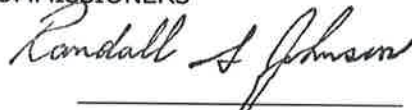
recently in partnership with Olympic National Park completed the final four-miles of a 10-mile section around Lake Crescent in the Park that is part of the trail corridor associated with this project. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Ozias, Chair


Randy Johnson


Mike French



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

February 13, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Jefferson County's Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Jefferson County, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

As a Co-Applicant Jefferson County embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We value the health benefits derived from active transportation.


Jefferson County has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

A key component of the PS2P, the Olympic Discovery Trail, is planned to run 130 miles from Port Townsend, our county seat, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push and is 61 percent complete. Currently the county is working on a key extension of the trail running from the trailhead at the Jefferson Transit Authority at Four Corners through Rayonier Timber lands to Anderson Lake State Park. Building this segment will allow trail users to reach the state park on 10 miles of trail, with only one-third mile of non-trail travel. This new section will be an exciting addition to the PS2P corridor. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please support this PS2P RAISE grant and support this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Kate Dean
District 1


Greg Brotherton, Chair
District 3

Approved Telephonically

Heidi Eisenhour
District 2



KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Efficient, accessible and effective county services

February 6, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Robert Gelder
DISTRICT 1

Charlotte Garrido
DISTRICT 2

Katherine T. Walters
DISTRICT 3

Re: Expressing Kitsap County Washington Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Kitsap County, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push, Washington.

As a Co-Applicant Kitsap County embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We specially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

Kitsap County has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, Kitsap County has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Charlotte Garrido in blue ink.

Charlotte Garrido, Chair

Handwritten signature of Robert Gelder in blue ink.

Robert Gelder

Handwritten signature of Katherine T. Walters in blue ink.

Katherine T. Walters



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

February 15, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Expressing City of Bainbridge Island's Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Bainbridge Island, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push, Washington.

As a co-applicant, Bainbridge Island embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We especially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

Bainbridge Island has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, Bainbridge Island has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. We recently completed the Sakai Pond Connector of the Sound to Pacific Trail on Bainbridge Island. This trail segment added an additional 500 feet to the trail extending its reach from the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal past the intersection of State Route 305 and our local street High School Road. Nearly one mile of the Sound to Pacific Trail has been completed in Bainbridge Island. We have already begun the next design phase. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Blair King
City Manager
City of Bainbridge Island

cc: Bainbridge Island City Council



THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

18490 Suquamish Way
Post Office Box 498
Suquamish, Washington 98392
Phone (360) 598-3311
Fax (360) 697-2728

January 30, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Suquamish Tribe Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Suquamish Tribe, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.


As a Co-Applicant the Suquamish Tribe embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We specially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

The Suquamish Tribe has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, the Suquamish Tribe has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. We recently cooperated on completing a Safe Routes to School project in Suquamish, establishing a safe multi-modal walkway to the Suquamish Tribe's Early Learning Center and Friends and Family Youth Center, and would like to provide safe, multi-modal access between the two sections of the Port Madison Indian Reservation along Miller Bay Road. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

F19A5D9A5D7A4A4...
Leonard Forsman
Chairman
The Suquamish Tribe

City of Poulsbo

Engineering Department

200 NE Moe Street, Poulsbo, Washington 98370
Phone (360) 394-9882



February 14, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing City of Poulsbo Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Poulsbo, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push, Washington.

As a Co-Applicant the City of Poulsbo embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We specially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

The City of Poulsbo has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, The City of Poulsbo has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. We are nearing completion of the Johnson Parkway – the South Segment of the City's Noll Road Improvements project, which provides a shared use path and tunnel crossing under SR305 and will provide part of the connection to the PS2P corridor. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Erickson".

Rebecca Erickson
Mayor
City of Poulsbo



152 W. Cedar Street, Sequim, WA 98382
PH (360) 683-4139 FAX (360) 681-3448

February 13, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing City of Sequim Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Sequim, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail (GART) from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

As a Co-Applicant, Sequim embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We especially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

Sequim has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Tribal nations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, Sequim has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. This spring Sequim will overlay a quarter mile segment of the PS2P corridor within the downtown City core, and complete additional rehabilitation on another segment along a key route to schools. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Tom Ferrell, Mayor

January 20, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing City of Port Townsend Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Port Townsend, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

As a Co-Applicant the City of Port Townsend embraces the benefits that active transportation infrastructure provides to our community and region. As you know, trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We especially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

The City has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, the City of Port Townsend has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. We continue to build out an impressive active transportation network, including pioneering Edge Lane Roads in the region, installing traffic-calming islands, and focusing squarely on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. To that end, the full rebuild of a main arterial, Discovery Road, will include significant bicycle and pedestrian components. The project is fully funded, thanks to both state and federal resources, and set to break ground this year. The project facilitates a connection to the PS2P corridor. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation. For instance, we are interested in delivering on the “water walk” envisioned in current plans that will link the heart of downtown Port Townsend along Port Townsend Bay toward the current terminus of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) – a project with tangible health and quality of life, tourism, sea level/climate protection benefits.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities like ours and beyond.

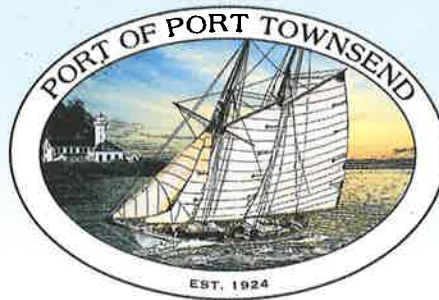
Warm regards and thank you for your leadership and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mauro".

John Mauro
City Manager



2701 Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 1180
Port Townsend, WA 98368



360-385-0656
fax:360-385-3988
info@portofpt.com

www.portofpt.com

February 1, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Expressing Port of Port Townsend Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Port of Port Townsend, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

As a Co-Applicant, the Port of Port Townsend embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We especially value the health benefits derived from active transportation.

The Port of Port Townsend has joined this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Indian Reservations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

For decades, the Port of Port Townsend has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community. Mile marker zero for the Larry Scott Trail (1st segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail) is at the Port. Our long-term land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans include significant commitments to implementing PS2P projects, community connections and transit support for active transportation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eron Berg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Eron Berg,
Executive Director
Port of Port Townsend



500 E. Division St. • Forks, Washington 98331-8618

(360) 374-5412 • Fax: (360) 374-9430 • TTY: (360) 374-2696
forkswashington.org

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

21 February 2023

Re: Expressing Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Forks, a co-applicant, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application, to plan the Great American Rail-Trail from Bainbridge Island across the Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

The City of Forks, as a remote rural community, understands the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. While our focus is usually on US/SR 101, we also understand that well developed trails can provide equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We believe investing in good planning for such long distance, multi-jurisdictional trail projects is vital to the success of such endeavors.

We are joining this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Tribal nations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

We have supported the extension of the Olympic Discovery Trail out to our part of Clallam County. We have also worked with Clallam County to develop a trail spur bringing the users of that trail into our community at Tillicum Park. Our joining this grant is to further develop that concept to ensure that there is a safe, non-motorized access to our community. We support the PS2P project as it would provide us planning dollars needed to undertake the proper analysis and design work to pursue that project.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Fletcher", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Fletcher

Mayor



February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Washington State Department of Transportation is pleased to be a co-applicant for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Puget Sound to Pacific Project (PS2P). This grant funding would support our efforts to design the gaps, missing links, community connections, and safety improvements to complete a striking regional trail system in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push. This investment leverages tens of millions of dollars in local, tribal, and state investments in portions of the Olympic Discovery Trail over the years, and the newer initiative for the Sound to Olympics Trail. Completing and connecting these into a trail network helps build out the statewide bikeways and trails network that WSDOT envisions for the future.

WSDOT's Olympic Region will be a partner with the tribes, counties, and cities engaged in this planning effort. This initiative fits well with our Complete Streets approach to project development, our efforts in reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, and our commitment to a sustainable, integrated multimodal transportation system.

WSDOT believes walking, rolling, and bicycling infrastructure is essential for the safe, sound, and smart transportation system of the future. We prioritize active transportation investments in places that have borne greater burdens from transportation decisions of the past in order to address transportation equity. This trail system serves areas including tribal lands and areas of persistent poverty where people may rely on walking and bicycling for everyday transportation and transit access.

In our application of a Safe System Approach, we seek to provide facilities that separate people using active transportation modes from higher-speed motor vehicle traffic wherever possible. A continuous and connected trail system such as this grant would support provides tremendous value. Trails reduce crash exposure, save lives, and invite more and more people to go for a walk or a bike ride and discover the ease and pleasure of active transportation.

In 2014 Washington became the first state on the West Coast to designate a US Bicycle Route: the highly scenic USBR10 that connects to this trail system in Port Townsend

February 23, 2023

PS2P RAISE Letter

via Washington State Ferries. This trail supports everyday transportation and also helps invite bike tourism, which is important to local economies on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas with their nationally recognized scenic qualities and destinations such as Olympic National Park.

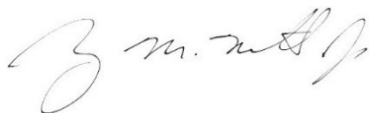
Bicycle tourism and bicycling in general create a considerable and positive economic impact. A study released in 2015 showed that bicycling contributed over \$3.1 billion in direct expenditures to the Washington state economy each year. An updated study in 2020 found that trail users contribute over \$8.2 billion to Washington's economy and support over 81,000 jobs every year. Physical activity associated with trail use results in over \$390 million of health savings per year. Trails also provide social and environmental benefits.

WSDOT supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe shared-use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to the Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the wider state of Washington.

This effort represents the kind of large-scale regional thinking proposed in the State Active Transportation Plan for a statewide bikeways and trails network. If this planning effort is funded, it will set the trail segments up for future success in seeking funds from a variety of sources for design and construction. Once complete, this would be a legacy for generations to come.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of this iconic trail network to Washington state and to our many visitors from across the United States and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Millar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "M".

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP
Secretary of Transportation

Sponsors

A forest management road in Clallam County improved to provide a car-free trail experience. Clallam County has been creative in improving many miles of the Olympic Discovery Trail. Photo: Steve Durrant





Future Sound to Olympics Trail in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, Kitsap County. Olympic Mountains in the distance. Photo: Don Willott





Puget Sound to Pacific

21 February 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

For more than thirty five years, advocates on the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas and Bainbridge Island have been pursuing a dream: *connect our communities with a continuous shore-to-shore trail*. In that time we have accomplished a lot. Hard work and citizen & public investment are helping local and state agencies and Native American Tribes bring environmental benefits, safe transportation choices, healthy lifestyle opportunities, economic vitality, community collaboration, and equitable access to public lands and community resources through the development of multi-use trails.

101 miles are built. The next 99 miles need your help.

This RAISE application is a contribution by advocates. The three nonprofits forming the Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative* funded and managed this application, inviting the City of Port Angeles as lead, and a partnership of co-applicants to bring the whole PS2P dream to life.

The components included in this application represent the gaps, safety improvements and community connections yet to be built in this 200-mile network of mainline multi-use trail and community connectors. Once implemented, these components will bring people closer to nature, provide convenient access to healthy activity, address climate change, and improve the resilience of our transportation infrastructure.


We bring innovation in collaboration to the fore with our many PS2P co-applicants, supporters and advocacy organizations pulling together, bound by the benefits of this thread of active transportation.

Please read the many voices found in our letters of support, their testimonials, complimentary missions, and dedication to the environmental, economic, and physical health of our diverse communities.

FY23 RAISE funding for planning will transform this beautiful rural study area, help us close the gaps, and multiply the value of previous active transportation investments in this region.

Please fully fund the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application for planning assistance.

Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative



Steve Durrant, FASLA
Project Director, PS2Pc

*Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation :: North Kitsap Trails Association :: Peninsula Trails Coalition

Officers

February 20, 2023

Sara Tift,
President

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Ann Browning,
Vice-President

Peter Vosshall,
Secretary

Rick Dernbach,
Treasurer

Re: Expressing Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Board Members

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Ty Cramer

The Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation enthusiastically supports the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application. The Foundation is part of the innovative PS2P collaborative along with two other non-profits to co-author this application on behalf of the City of Port Angeles and its many co-applicants.

Cyndy Holtz

Kelly MacDonald

Andy Maron

Steve Matthews

Elizabeth Ozimek

Dave Shorett

Jason Shutt

Gene Smith

Andrew Welch

Rachael Weakland

The Sound To Olympics Trail (STO) is the cornerstone of the PS2P collaborative and the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation has been a lead partner in the trail's planning, growth and stewardship for over a decade. Once completed, the STO will be the spine of our Island's trail system, the lifeblood connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks, businesses and services. The Parks & Trails Foundation has been actively helping to create many trail connections to the STO by accruing trail easements and expanding an island-wide system of trails. Over 40 miles of trails have been added to the trail network in the last few decades. This work is achieved through successful partnerships with the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District and the Friends of the STO.

Executive Director

The STO is a linear park and the Foundation has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the restoration and maintenance of this greenway.

Mary Meier

Projects

Please consider full support for funding the PS2P project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Bainbridge Island and communities across our region.

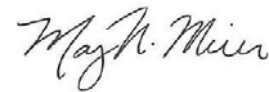
Barbara Trafton

Communications

Douglas Crist

Sincerely,

Executive Assistant



Brooke Drury

Mary Meier
Executive Director



Spearheading the Vision of the Olympic Discovery Trail since 1988

P.O. Box 1836, Port Angeles, WA 98362
info@olympicdiscoverytrail.org
OlympicDiscoveryTrail.org



Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

23 February 2023

Re: Peninsula Trails Coalition Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

In this, our 35th Anniversary year, the Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) is celebrating its long leadership in the effort to establish the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) as a premier regional, and now nationally significant, multi-modal, non-motorized trail. Our mission is to create and sustain the ODT as a world class, multi-use pathway connecting communities across the north Olympic Peninsula, providing recreation, economic development and public health benefits, and transportation access for a diverse spectrum of users. To date, we have been successful in achieving more than 90 in-place miles of beautiful, accessible, truly first-class trail. But important gaps remain, and this RAISE planning grant would help advance this mission in profound ways.

Since 2019, we have been especially proud to be recognized as the "Western Gateway to the Great American Rail-Trail", the cross-country trail that links 13 states in a grand vision. That vision, and our key location within it, has brought rapidly increasing attention to our region, and to the ODT. In turn, this vision and attention has prompted us to join with two other regional trail advocacy non-profits to pursue a comprehensive proposal for the FY23 RAISE grant to which this letter is attached. On behalf of the Peninsula Trails Coalition, a co-author of this application, please accept this letter of full-throated support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements that would complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

PTC has joined the North Kitsap Trails Association and the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation, in what we believe may be an unprecedented example of non-profits stepping in on behalf of a consortium of jurisdictions, to prepare this application. We have stepped up to create this application and applicant consortium because the PS2P trail network will multiply the benefits we see from our decades of progress by bridging gaps, and by providing a safe, non-motorized, shared use path connecting communities across three counties, six cities, and five Native American Tribes, linking across Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca to metropolitan areas seeking respite on the Olympic Peninsula. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to our small towns and Tribal nations, but also to the wider state of Washington and visitors from across the country and across the globe.

We know from our 35 years of dedication to this grand vision that big steps are required to bring it to full fruition. This compelling, comprehensive proposal embodies this grand vision. A fully funded RAISE planning grant will be a big step for this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community and economic development, and transportation benefits of trails to our communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Bohman".

Jeffrey R. Bohman
Board President



February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: North Kitsap Trails Association as Co-author urging recommendation to fund our Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of North Kitsap Trails Association (NKTA), a co-author of this application, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The North Kitsap Trails Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 all volunteer organization dedicated to increasing North Kitsap residents' access to non-motorized transportation by creating a regional trail system connecting communities, improving existing trails and roadways, and increasing access to open spaces.

NKTA leadership partnered with the National Park Service and our local community to author the North Kitsap "String of Pearls" Trail Plan. After extensive community engagement, that Trail Plan was officially adopted into the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and is a guiding document for development of the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO). NKTA was a key organization leading the Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition (including Kitsap County, the Port Gamble & Suquamish Tribes, environmental organizations, and user groups), which developed a framework and campaign with Forterra (regional land conservation organization) in purchasing 3,500 acres of commercial forest to transform into more natural diverse habitat as Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.

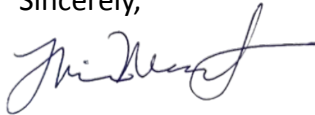
The North Kitsap Trails Association has partnered with jurisdictions to lead creation of the Sound to Olympics Trail across Kitsap County since 2008, to fill the gap in Washington State's Cross-State Trail between Seattle / Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge. NKTA now is partnering to lead the extension of the Rails to Trails Conservancy's Great American Rail Trail between Bainbridge Island's Washington State Ferry Terminal and La Push.

The first mile of STO has been constructed on Bainbridge Island. A tunnel under SR305 and a mile of the STO has been constructed in Poulsbo, and Poulsbo has secured funding to complete the primary STO route by 2027. More than six miles of STO now exist as unimproved logging road in Port Gamble and Kitsap County has secured funding to build the first segment of the STO. A key goal was and continues to be connecting the STO with the Olympic Discovery Trail across Jefferson and Clallam Counties to the Pacific Ocean.

We have successfully joined forces over the years with the host of local governments, Tribes, land conservation, and user advocacy groups. These groups are uniting to jump-start filling trail gaps with this Puget Sound to Pacific(PS2P) vision. NKTA is pleased to submit this RAISE Grant Application with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation and the Peninsula Trails Coalition as part of the PS2P Consortium.

Please support full funding for this essential project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to our neighbors in Kitsap County and far beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Berry-Maraist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Linda Berry-Maraist, President
North Kitsap Trails Association

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Recording...

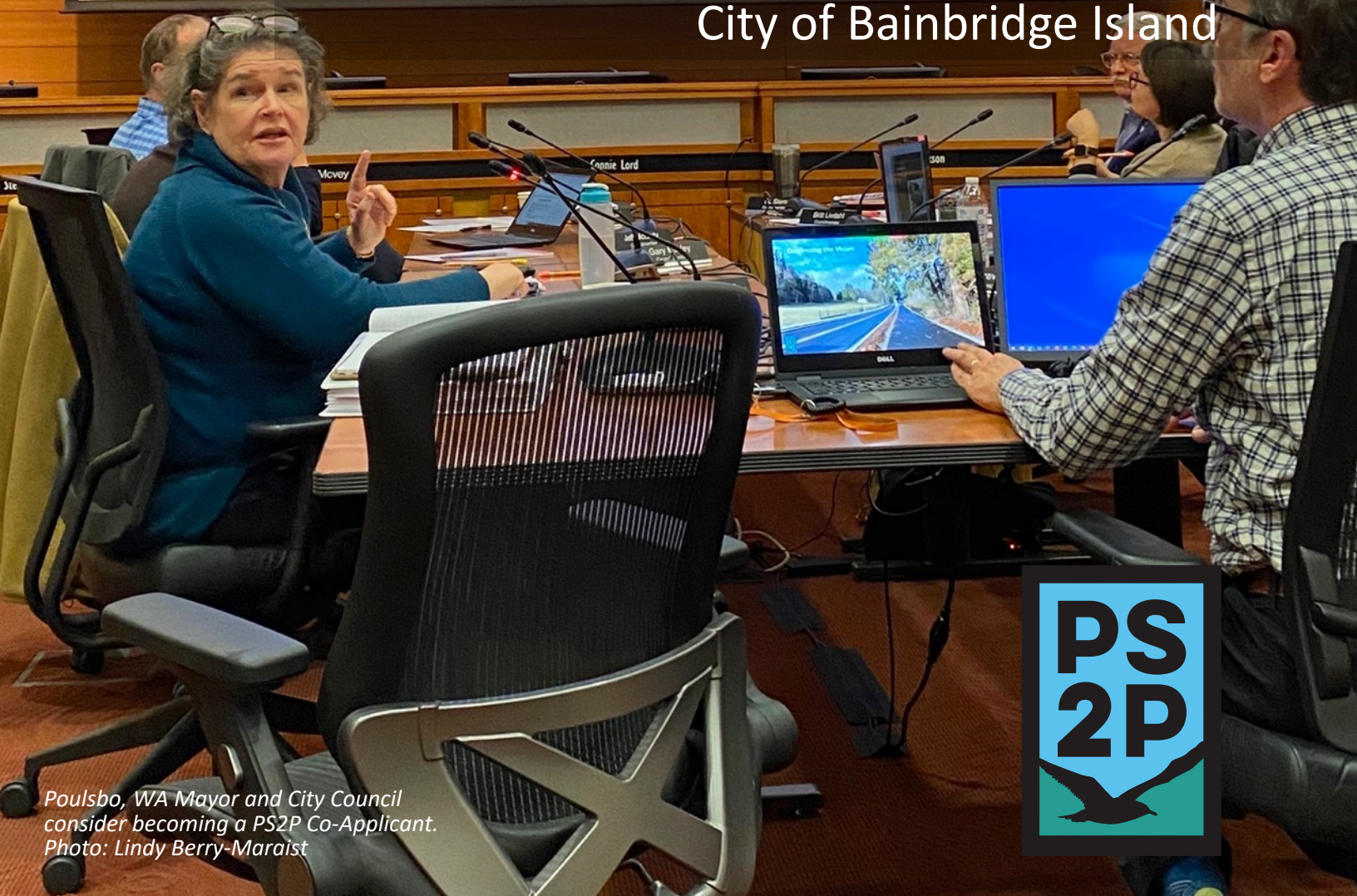
Confirming the Vision

Poulsbo



Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer
Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz
State Senator Christine Rolfes
State Representative Steve Tharinger
Mayor Brenda Fantroy-Johnson,
City of Bainbridge Island



Poulsbo, WA Mayor and City Council consider becoming a PS2P Co-Applicant. Photo: Lindy Berry-Maraist



Trail advocates, city staff and State Representative Tharinger touring an Olympic Discovery Trail route alternative. Photo: Steve Durrant



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Port Angeles along with a coalition of jurisdictions in Washington State for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program* for the Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative Project (PS2P).

PS2P will support planning projects to complete the gaps in the Great American Rail-Trail that run from the Bainbridge Island ferry terminal to the Pacific Ocean coastline in La Push, Washington. Completing these networks of trails will support accessibility to schools, service centers, and transit, and will allow residents and tourists to move through the region safely. The design process will aim to connect communities in three counties and act as a non-motorized route to Olympic National Park.

Planning will include all aspects of the trail, from route alignment to 100 percent design, for the entities collaborating together to create this vast connective network. Other supporting organizations include the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), local counties, transit districts, chambers, park districts, cities, Tribes, and regional non-profits and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of the city of Port Angeles' application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

DEREK KILMER
6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4706

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5916

950 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 1230
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 272-3515

345 6TH STREET
SUITE 500
BREMERTON, WA 98337
(360) 373-9725

www.kilmer.house.gov

February 8th, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

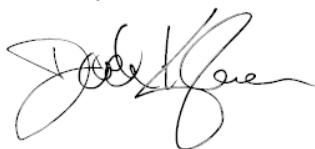
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to write in strong support of the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

The Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) proposal is an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in Kitsap, Jefferson, and Clallam counties of Washington state. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to these three counties and the small towns and tribal communities directly served, but also as a connected route to the Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the wider state of Washington. The PS2P connects the Greater Seattle metropolitan area to the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula via the regional transit hubs at Bainbridge and Kingston ferry terminals.

I am pleased to support PS2P's proposal, which promotes sustainable non-motorized transportation for commuters, local residents reaching services, cultural facilities and schools, and recreational trail users and cyclists. This trail serves as a critical transportation and recreational link for people of all economic backgrounds to commute to work and enjoy the parks and scenery that the region offers. Please give this proposal full and fair consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Emma Abraham in my District office and Emma.Abraham@mail.house.gov or 253-272-3515.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Washington State Senate

Olympia Office:
PO Box 40423
Olympia, WA 98504-0423

Senator Christine Rolfes
23rd Legislative District

Phone: (360) 786-7644
Toll-Free: 1-800-562-6000
TDD: 1-800-635-9993
E-mail: Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov

February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am reaching out to you to express support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Thank you for helping provide opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to my constituents in the 23rd Legislative District and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Rolfes".

State Senator
23rd Legislative District



February 25, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Thank you for helping provide opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to my constituents in the 24th Legislative District and throughout our state of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Tharinger".

Representative Steve Tharinger
24th Legislative District



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC LANDS**

1111 WASHINGTON STREET SE
OLYMPIA, WA 98504

360-515-8087

MARISSA.AHO@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: Washington Department of Natural Resources Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) writes this letter in support of the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 US Department of Transportation RAISE application for planning and design to fill the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements, to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) is an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations, directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington. PS2P is a collaboration involving Kitsap, Jefferson, & Clallam Counties, with several cities and Tribal nations to enhance safety, quality of life, sustainability, healthy lives, and bolster local economies.

PS2P is leveraging projects already underway for ecological restoration, native planting, invasive removal, mulching, irrigation, repurposing logging roads, railways and utilizing right-of ways. One example is the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Murden Cove Fish Passage Improvement Project on Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, replacing an impassable culvert under SR305 with a 120 foot-long bridge. Several partners are collaborating to create a separated shared-use path, conserve 1.25 miles of unbulkheaded shoreline and use an existing section of historic road. This is just one example of multiple entities working together to integrate active transportation with the PS2P, in concert with environmental restoration and culvert and bridge replacement to improve fish passage and widen the right of way.

DNR supports this project because it provides accessible ways for residents to enjoy the beautiful outdoors while preserving and protecting adjacent natural resources such as supporting the state's efforts to improve sensitive fish passage. The ability for salmon and steelhead to swim upstream to their traditional spawning grounds is vital to their recovery across Washington.

Letter of Support to Secretary Pete Buttigieg

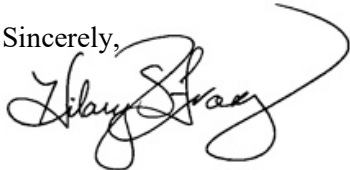
February 22, 2023

Page 2 of 2

DNR's mission is to manage, sustain, and protect the health and productivity of Washington's lands and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations. Under the elected leadership of the Commissioner of Public Lands, DNR manages state trust lands for the people of Washington.

Planning dollars from the federal government in the form of a RAISE grant will allow the PS2P trail to move swiftly into design and construction with future funding. We are pleased to support of this project and urge USDOT to include it for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Franz", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Hilary S. Franz

Commissioner of Public Lands

February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Letter of Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Mayor of Bainbridge Island, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

As a supporter of the Bainbridge Island Sustainable Transportation Plan that was recently approved, I endorsed the concept of connecting centers plan and the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) as integral to this transportation vision.

The vision of the STO will encourage non-motorized transportation, provide ADA accessibility, improve drainage and safety features, incorporate native plantings with visual and acoustic buffers, and promote all modes of non-motorized transportation and connectivity to branch trails.

Trails have always been my way to meet people. It's wonderful when I meet other people of color and discover that I have neighbors that I have never met. The STO will provide more of that connection that is always needed and welcomed in today's world. A place where we can all come together as one to enjoy the Pacific Northwest.

Through this letter, I acknowledge that there is a true partnership among myself and others that specify specific roles and responsibilities that will be fulfilled in the partnership. My role in this is to:

- Help provide information to promote equity and inclusion to those who may be underserved and may not have previously had access to trails
- Facilitate accessibility to the disabled and elderly - It is a shared-use path, meaning it is intended to be shared by people biking, walking, running, skating, and pushing strollers, as well as people in wheelchairs and using other assistive devices, moving in both directions.
- In my position as Mayor of the Council, I believe that the collaborative PS2P RAISE project is the optimal opportunity to support the STO, as essential to our City's Transportation initiative. And I appreciate the opportunities it will bring to our neighboring jurisdictions, including Tribal Nations, Counties, Cities and unincorporated areas.

- As West Sound's link via Washington State Ferries to Seattle, Bainbridge Island wants to complete the STO across the island as part of the Great American Rail Trail, to advance important connectivity in the West Sound and beyond, to the Pacific.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Fantroy-Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Mayor
& Councilmember, North Ward
City of Bainbridge Island

Native American Tribes



Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal representatives crossed Gamble Bay by canoe in 2015 for a Blessing Ceremony at the start of environmental clean-up of their ancestral village at the former Port Gamble Mill site. The Tribe was instrumental in the purchase of 3,500 acres for Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park with six miles of Sound to Olympics Trail. Photo: Don Willott





*The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has embraced the Olympic Discovery Trail, contributing to the rehabilitation of the Dungeness River Trestle and recent Dungeness River habitat enhancement.
Photo: John Gussman*





JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim, WA 98382

360/683-1109

FAX 360/681-4643

February 24, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, please accept our letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application, to prepare a development plan for the Great American Rail Trail from Bainbridge Island across the north Olympic Peninsula to La Push.

For more than a decade, our Tribe owns and stewards many miles of the Olympic Discovery Trail and embraces the multi-faceted benefits to our community. Trails transform rural and tribal communities by providing equitable access, safe and sustainable travel, and boosts local economies. We especially value the Run the Peninsula non-profit which draws tourist to our trails with their regional marathon events on tribal lands.

Our Tribe anticipates the PS2P Lead Agency, the City of Port Angeles, will identify gaps in the Olympic Discovery Trail and create innovative alignment alternatives to pursue in a public involvement process. Ultimately, the gap analysis will lead to new projects in the Tribe's jurisdiction. This multi-use trail plan will be an asset to the City of Port Angeles, Clallam County, and the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

A growing need to finish the Olympic Discovery Trail and connect to Kitsap County has been discussed for years. One of the Jefferson County gaps will connect with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe trust lands. Our long-term vision is to relocate and rehabilitate the existing Olympic Discovery Trail to tribal lands and thereby remove safety risks of sharing the road.

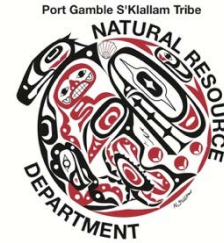
Please consider full support for funding this multi-jurisdictional plan to provide the public health, recreation, rural development, and transportation benefits of trails to the Olympic Peninsula. Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO



PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
31912 Little Boston Rd. NE – Kingston, WA 98346



February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Solid Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application, from communities across the Olympic Peninsula to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

This "PS2P" Trail serves as the connecting thread of an "emerald necklace" at a regional landscape scale for habitat corridor where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value, and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is our Kitsap County section of the PS2P, which is connecting with the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe embraces the benefits active transportation infrastructure provides to our communities. Trails transform communities by providing equitable access, enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies. We especially value the opportunity to share our history through signage and art that promote the importance of this area is to our people.

For decades, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has contributed to the growing need for safe, non-motorized access throughout our community while at the same time preserving and enhancing habitat and ecological function. For example, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has invested in the STO trail with the work the tribe has put toward a clean, restored, and preserved Port Gamble Bay. Working with several partners such as Washington State Department of Ecology, Pope Resources and OPG Properties, LLC the clean-up and restoration work of the more than 140-year-old former mill site is nearly complete. Clean up included over 3,400 lineal feet of shoreline improvement along the mill site, a total of more than 106 acres cleaned up, and has been designated the largest creosote-treated pilling removal action in all of Puget Sound. The Port Gamble Bay and Port Gamble

Town are immediately adjacent to the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park where trail planning includes a significant STO trail connection. This portion of the trail will be used jointly as part of the PS2P trail.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe supports this application because the PS2P projects will create an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path through this beautiful and productive rural landscape. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the three counties, numerous small towns and several Tribal nations directly impacted, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, tribal signage and art, and transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Kelly Sullivan
Executive Director
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe



Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

ʔəʔt̚x̚wə nəx̚s̚l̚ʔay̚ əm "The Strong People"

2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

360.452.8471
360.452.3428

February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Can you imagine riding across the country? How about across Washington, or the whole Olympic Peninsula? Maybe walking safely across your community? I can and on behalf of Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region and has been a strong supporter of the tremendous trail development work completed by the Peninsula Trails Coalition. The Tribe has prioritized and implemented safe and diverse modes of transportation for members of the tribal community, as reflected by the Tribe's on-Reservation interpretative trail system, sidewalk/ intersection pedestrian safety improvements, and van transit services to Port Angeles for community members. This is consistent with the Tribe's mission that includes, among others, ensuring the health, safety, education, welfare, social and economic development of its citizens.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to North Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Matthew Beirne
Natural Resources Director

Regional Organizations



The Seattle Metropolitan Region is the hub of economic and transportation activity in Western Washington. Puget Sound to Pacific connects the region with active transportation options for work, pleasure and utility trips. Photo: Steve Durrant



SOUND TO OLYMPICS



**OPEN
HOUSE**



*Public engagement has informed all of the Sound to Olympics and Olympic Discovery Trail improvements.
Photo: Don Willott*



February 23, 2023

Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 2023 RAISE Grant for the Port Angeles Puget Sound to Pacific Trail Planning Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO) submits this letter of support for Port Angeles' Puget Sound to Pacific trail planning project being considered for a RAISE grant. Port Angeles is the Lead Applicant for a consortium of local, tribal, state, and non-profit entities from across the Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap County parts of our region, each with a different stake in this project. The proposed project will expand on the extensive investments partner communities have already made in the Olympic Discovery Trail and the Sound-to-Olympics Trail, leveraging them to complete the westernmost segment of the Great American Rail-Trail. The intent of this proposal is to complete gaps in the existing trail systems and improve safety and connectivity, ultimately building out a coordinated interlacing network of non-motorized facilities from the Winslow ferry terminal all the way to LaPush on the Pacific Coast.

PRTPO has long supported investments in trails and has funded several elements of the Olympic Discovery Trail over the years. The economic impact of the ODT, as it is affectionately known by locals and visitors alike, is notable in a highly rural region that relies on tourism to support local economies. Trails align with the outdoor recreation experience that so many come to this region to enjoy. Completing gaps in the ODT and the Sound-to-Olympics trail and providing logical linkages between the two systems as proposed in the Puget Sound to Pacific project will enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation and promote tourism in the small communities along its length.

PRTPO completed a Non-Motorized Connectivity Study in January 2019. Input from that study is being used to help identify and understand some of the gaps and connectivity issues to be addressed in this Puget Sound to Pacific project. The resulting work will help position our partners for important implementation funding needed to complete some of those gaps and identify other areas for further study.

A RAISE grant will enable the ambitious initiative of this local/tribal/state/non-profit partnership to move forward now in a concerted fashion. PRTPO stands ready to expedite approval of this project into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Port Angeles upon notice of a funding award.

On behalf of the 27 members of the Peninsula RTPO, I urge your support of a RAISE grant for Port Angeles' Puget Sound to Pacific trail planning project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bek Ashby". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bek Ashby, Chair
Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization



January 27, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Clallam Transit System ("CTS"), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements necessary to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in western Washington State.

CTS is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. To enhance the quality of life, bolster mobility, and create opportunities through public transit and to provide customer-friendly, reliable, economical, and efficient services that encourage residents and visitors to select CTS as an integral part of their routine transportation choices.

CTS supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

In addition to our commitment to provide courteous, professional, safe, accessible, and reliable countywide public transportation services, CTS participates, partners and collaborates with various jurisdictions and organizations throughout the northwest region to actively support multiple modes of transportation.

Please consider offering your support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Clallam County communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin E. Gallacci". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kevin E. Gallacci
General Manager
Clallam Transit System

Economic Development



Many group rides from Seattle start at the Washington State Ferry terminal on Bainbridge Island.
Photo: Steve Durrant





Commercial fishing in La Push, WA. The rural economy of the Puget Sound to Pacific study area depends on fishing, logging & visitor services. Photo: Steve Durrant





February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific Application for a FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Planning Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the more than 430 member organizations and businesses of the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce in Port Angeles, Washington, I enthusiastically support the "Puget Sound to Pacific" multi-jurisdictional joint application for a FY2023 RAISE planning grant. This grant opportunity is a key step in the decades-long effort to develop the 130-mile Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) as a key link between the Puget Sound at Bainbridge Island and the Pacific Ocean.

The ODT runs through downtown Port Angeles and has proven to be an important economic engine for our rural area and businesses. As a multi-modal trail, the ODT is at the farthest west end of the Great American Rail-Trail that will link towns and cities along a dedicated, 3,700-mile path that uses dozens of converted railways, from Washington, D.C., through Washington State, to the Pacific Ocean. Fifty million Americans live within 50 miles of the proposed route of more than 145 existing rail trails, greenways, and other multipurpose paths, including the ODT. When completed, the Great American Rail-Trail could generate close to \$230 million in annual visitor spending and 25,000 new jobs over 10 years for communities that lie on or near the trail, including Port Angeles.

Please fully support full funding for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections, and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington. This important project will provide public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to our communities, our counties, our state, and the nation.

Sincerely,

Marc Abshire
Executive Director
121 E Railroad Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362
director@portangeles.org
(360) 452-2364



PORT LUDLOW
golf. marina. inn. home.

February 14, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Port Ludlow Associates' Expresses Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Port Ludlow Associates, I am writing in support of the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application, a project set to identify gaps, missing links, build community connections, design safety improvements, and develop ecological open space preservation and restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail.

In partnership with government agencies, non-profits and volunteers, this will be done by creating connections from currently developed trail systems: The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) in Kitsap, and the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties, spanning between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

As the developer of the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort (MPR) community we are situated at the gateway to the Olympic Peninsula and can attest to the economic benefit the PS2P Trail will offer the local community and tourists alike.

Port Ludlow currently has 30+ miles of maintained hiking trails that are stewarded by a dedicated group of local volunteers. Since the pandemic, we have seen an influx of eco-tourists wanting to get away from the dense populated cities and escape to our peaceful and tranquil locales on the Olympic Peninsula. Our local businesses and residents are reliant on the revenues brought in from visitor spending and the hospitality jobs created from the increased demand tourism provides.

The Olympic Peninsula is ready to welcome future travelers to our area to partake in our accommodations, restaurants, campgrounds, interpretive nature walks and experience the abundance of nature offered: water views, scenic byways, and wildlife such as deer and many species of birds.

Thank you for your consideration of the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) RAISE application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation in nature for all, while also enhancing economic development for our rural Washington communities.

Sincerely,

Diana Smeland

Diana Smeland, President

Port Ludlow Associates, LLC
70 Breaker Lane
Port Ludlow, WA 98365
www.portludlowresort.com



618 South Peabody Street, Ste. F
Port Angeles WA 98362
360-452-8552
info@olympicpeninsula.org
www.olympicpeninsula.org

February 15, 2023

Attn: Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. The national 3,700-mile Great American Rail-Trail will travel from Washington DC to Washington State, through Western Washington and onto the ODT (Olympic Discovery Trail) out to Washington's Pacific coast. Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties, for locals and visitors alike. When people travel to the Olympic Peninsula, they often start at one end of the Peninsula and want to travel through to the other end. Without the funds to complete the trail, cyclists are forced to travel on the highway for parts of their trip and there are real safety concerns in some of the more remote and windy sections of highway.

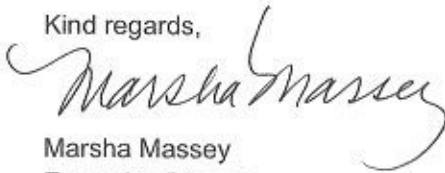
Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three

counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

The Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau, as the regional destination marketing organization, is tasked with attracting overnight visitors to the Olympic Peninsula. These visitors spend over \$886 million in our area, and contribute nearly \$72 million in state and local taxes. They make vital contributions to our local economy. The ODT is a major visitor draw, and its timely completion will help insure that these outdoor enthusiasts will continue to visit the Olympic Peninsula for years to come.

The Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau respectfully asks for your full support for funding the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE grant application.

Kind regards,



Marsha Massey
Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau

Cody Fishel, President (Aramark at Lake Crescent Lodge)
Michele Jaeger, Vice President (Greenhouse Inn by the Bay)
Paul Schiefen, Treasurer (Jardin du Soleil Lavender Farm)
Molly McAleer, Secretary (Strait Surf Cabins)
Tamara Galvan, (Feiro Marine Life Center)
Hannah Merrill, (City of Sequim)
Judy Walz, (7 Cedars Hotel and Casino)
David DeLano, (Elwha Dam RV Park)



February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce (SDVCC), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

SDVCC is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. Our mission is to advance and promote both business and a healthy community for our region, and the Olympic Discovery Trail is instrumental in both aspects. Tourism in our region is greatly enhanced by this trail, which draws cyclists from around the globe every year. The SDVCC is located adjacent to a section of the ODT, and we are working currently to improve our campus to better welcome the cyclists who visit.

SDVCC supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Our membership of approximately 370 businesses and organizations, which span from tribal entities to healthcare and the arts, located across the Peninsula, are all bolstered by the tourism economy of the North Olympic Peninsula. This trail is an amenity second only to the location of the National Park in our backyard. These outdoor recreation options are invaluable to our tourism economy.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to the Sequim-Dungeness Valley communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pratt
Executive Director



02/14/23

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing The Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

The Bainbridge Chamber is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in ours and neighboring communities across the region, as part of our mission to support businesses and Bainbridge life as a whole. This project has the potential to bring a very positive impact across all sectors of local life, and is being led in part by a trusted local partner so we wholeheartedly support it.

The Bainbridge Chamber supports this application because the PS2P will create an innovative active transportation corridor, providing safe, non-motorized shared use paths connecting communities across three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to the Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the wider state of Washington. It will help our workforce move more safely around Bainbridge, residents better enjoy our Island, and visitors a new way to better connect with the natural beauty of Bainbridge Island and the Olympic Peninsula, a connection bringing positive economic impact for our region.

Since 1927, the Bainbridge Chamber has been committed to local service through advocacy, connection, and community, so in this case, applying advocacy to increase connections, and foster closer ties within a multitude of local communities means we could not be more supportive of this application created in part by our partners at the BI Parks & Trails Foundation.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, business



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

development and both workforce and leisure transportation benefits of trails to the Bainbridge Island community and beyond.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Goldby', written in a cursive style.

Stefan Goldby
President/CEO
Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce

February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Kitsap Economic Development Alliance's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,


On behalf of Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

KEDA's mission is to facilitate healthy economic growth and investments that support liveable, resilient communities, fueled by innovation and the diverse people and businesses of Kitsap County. As such we realize the importance of the infrastructure for active transportation in our communities and across the region. KEDA collaborates with community and service organizations, business, government, Naval Base Kitsap and Kitsap's indigenous tribes to find solutions to transportation and infrastructure issues. KEDA's work with the [Gorst Coalition](#) provides an example of a multi-jurisdictional effort to resolve safety, security and environmental issues presented by the critical Gorst/SR3 corridor. Last year the project received significant funding from the Washington State Legislature to fund initial critical design, environmental and Cultural Resources work necessary to build the project.

KEDA strongly supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in Kitsap County. In 2019, the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization completed a study outlining the economic benefits of the fully connected route and extended network that this project will support. The study outlines measurable stimulated economic benefits related to tourism, and enhanced property values. Also described in this report are the less measurable health and wellness benefits that support a resilient economy. KEDA believes this multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to the Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Kitsap communities and beyond.

Sincerely,


Joe Morrison
Executive Director | morrison@kitsapeda.org
Kitsap Economic Development Alliance



2.21.2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing the Economic Development Council of Jefferson County's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of EDC Team Jefferson, the Economic Development Council of Jefferson County, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to fill gaps, bridge missing links, create community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

The mission of EDC Team Jefferson is to foster a business-friendly environment that fuels economic sustainability, drives innovation, and inspires collaborative community leadership. The outcomes we seek relative to this project are supporting workforce and elevating the tourism sector.

Our resilience depends on creating the enabling conditions for the diverse community of people and businesses of Jefferson County to thrive. We realize the importance of infrastructure for active, affordable transportation in our communities and across the region. The EDC works with thousands of businesses as they seek to design products and services that matter to people in changing times. In our small, rural county we seek to retain local ownership of legacy businesses and elevate them as contributors to our place-based culture. Infrastructure is essential for rural communities that, through the experience of the COVID epidemic, have a renewed sense of the value of being a part of a network and caring for community health. We seek to become increasingly interconnected and measure our economic outcomes through social outcomes as well as jobs and financial outcomes. It is essential to connect people/employees to social determinants of health like affordable housing, especially those living on the margins, as our economic trajectory prices out essential workers in healthcare, and in other service jobs. People are traveling longer distances to work as inflation creates scarcity in housing affordability, and the costs of maintaining a car are growing. These businesses seek to support their employees, and their travel needs are paramount. We also seek to build our recreational tourism sector. A multi-use trail will be a key feature in attracting tourism to our community.

EDC Team Jefferson supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a fully connected safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in Jefferson County. In 2019, the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization completed a study outlining the economic benefits of the fully connected route and extended network that this project will support. The study outlines measurable

stimulated economic benefits related to tourism, and enhanced property values. Also described in this report are the less measurable health and wellness benefits that support a resilient economy. EDC Team Jefferson believes this multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the Jefferson County, our neighboring counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to the Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Jefferson County communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Brooks".

Cindy Brooks
Director, EDC Team Jefferson
Economic Development Council of Jefferson County
385 Benedict St 2A
Port Townsend WA 98368
360-671-3199

TCC – Tourism Coordinating Council of Jefferson County, WA

Council Members –

February 14, 2023

Diana Smeland, TCC Chair-
Resort at Port Ludlow

Bill Roney, TCC Past Chair-
Olympic Peninsula Gateway VIC

Cleone Telling,
Worthington Park, Quilcene

Dan Ventura,
Cove RV, Brinnon

Amy Neil - Kalaloch Resort, Forks

Marsha Massey,
Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission

Aaron Terada,
Fort Flagler State Park, Nordland

Cristie Kisler, Finnriver, Chimacum

Bethany Smith,
Old Alcohol Plant & Inn, Port Hadlock

Heidi Eisenhour,
Commissioner to TCC

Marketing Coordinator -
Steve Shively, S3 Solutions

TCC -

2023 E. Sims Way - #308
Port Townsend, WA 98368

p. 360-440-7006 | f. 360-912-8352
e. tcc@enjoyolympicpeninsula.com
www.EnjoyOlympicPeninsula.com



Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing TCC's Strong Support for **Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE** Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of TCC (Tourism Coordinating Council) of Jefferson County, WA, please accept this letter of support for the **Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE** application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the **Great American Rail-Trail** in Western Washington.

TCC is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. TCC's East Jefferson County serves as the welcoming "Gateway" to an excess of 20,000 travelers across the Hood Canal Bridge each day. The PS2P will greatly help transform many of these daily trips from automobiles to non-motorized alternatives.

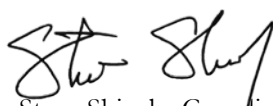
TCC supports this application because the **PS2P** will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Olympic Peninsula visitor spend exceeded \$886 million in 2021,

- State and local taxes generated by that visitor spending totaled \$71.8 million,
- There were a combined 6,427 jobs in the region supported by tourism,
- This generated \$195.4 million in labor income,
- The national 3,700-mile **Great American Rail-Trail** will travel from Washington DC to Washington State, through Western Washington and onto the ODT (Olympic Discovery Trail) out to Washington's Pacific coast.
- The Olympic Peninsula is well positioned to welcome trail users from near and far.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to TCC's Jefferson County, Washington and beyond to all of our Olympic Peninsula communities.

Sincerely,


Steve Shively, Coordinator



Forks Chamber of Commerce

1411 S. Forks Ave. | P.O. Box 1249 | Forks, WA 98331
360-374-2531 | 800-443-6757 | director@forkswa.com
ForksWA.com

February 15, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing FORKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of **FORKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

FORKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region for tourism, citizen well-being, and alternative ways to travel.

FORKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Forks, Washington and the West End of the Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Lissy Andros, executive director

